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Saigon 6556 9/21/67

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EXCISE

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ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, NSAE 00, L 03, INR 07, P 04,
CIA 04, DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, SAH 03, IO 21, AID 30, RSR 01, /159 W

R 211030Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7322
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4315
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 993
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2578

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6556

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

[redacted] BI SAIGON 5646

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1. IN CONVERSATION EVENING SEPTEMBER 20 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY [redacted] EXPRESSED VIEW THAT BOTH PRESIDENTIAL AND UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS WERE FAIR AND SHOULD BE VALIDATED. [redacted] SAID THAT IF DECISION IS MADE STRICTLY ACCORDING TO LAW, ASSEMBLY WOULD HAVE TO VALIDATE RESULTS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. HE ADDED THAT OF COURSE "OTHER INFLUENCES" ARE AT WORK IN ASSEMBLY, BUT

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HE IS NONETHELESS OPTIMISTIC THAT ELECTION WILL BE APPROVED. AS [redacted] SEES IT, CATHOLIC DEPUTIES, MRS AND DAI VIET DEPUTIES, PLUS SOME INDEPENDENTS, SUCH AS DR. PHAN QUANG DAN, WILL VOTE FOR VALIDATION [redacted] OPPOSITION IS MAINLY CEN-

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Jenkins DATE 12/29/77
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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TERED IN NON-CATHOLIC PORTION OF DEMOCRATIC-ALLIANCE BLOC (LE PHUOC SANG, LE QUANG LIEM, ET. AL.), AND [redacted] BELIEVES GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS. b-1 ed

2. [redacted] HOUSE CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL, SAID THAT UPPER HOUSE ELECTION WAS ALSO RELATIVELY FAIR, ALTHOUGH AS IN PRESIDENTIAL RACE THERE WERE NUMEROUS MINOR IRREGULARITIES. [redacted] SAID ONLY 15 FORMAL COMPLAINTS WERE SUBMITTED TO CEC CHARGING IRREGULARITIES IN UPPER HOUSE ELECTION, AND ONLY ONE PROVED TO HAVE SOME BASIS IN FACT. THAT WAS COMPLAINT SUBMITTED BY LIST NUMBER 42 CHARGING THAT VOTE TALLY AT ONE POLLING PLACE IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE WAS CHANGED BETWEEN POLLING STATION AND DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

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REF. B). [redacted] SAID KIEN PHONG DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE POLLING STATION WERE INVITED TO APPEAR BEFORE CEC TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAD HAPPENED. OFFICIALS ADMITTED THAT TALLY SHEET HAD BEEN FALSIFIED, AND ATTRIBUTED IT TO LAX SUPERVISION OF POLLING STATION WHICH MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE TO CHANGE FIGURES. CEC DECIDED THAT COMPLAINT WAS VALID, BUT DID NOT DEEM IT NECESSARY TO INITIATE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST OFFICIALS INVOLVED, SINCE THEY SEEMED GUILTY ONLY OF INCOMPETENCE. [redacted] SAID THAT LE PHU C SANG AND DAM VAN QUY CLAIMED TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE EVIDENCE OF SIMILAR MANIPULATION, BUT REFUSED TO SUBMIT IT TO CEC, PREFERRING INSTEAD TO DISTRIBUTE IT AMONG DEPUTIES. HE DOUBTS VERACITY OF THEIR EVIDENCE.

3. [redacted] IS SATISFIED THAT UPPER HOUSE CEC CONDUCTED ITS WORK IN PROFESSIONAL AND IMPARTIAL MANNER AND SAID THAT IT WAS NOT PRESSURED BY GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO [redacted] THE DIRECTORATE IS NOW PREPARING DECREE FOR CONVENING OF

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UPPER HOUSE, WHICH HE BELIEVES MAY TAKE PLACE AS EARLY

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AS WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25. IN [redacted] OPINION, THIEU
PROBABLY BELIEVES CONVE
NING UPPER HOUSE WILL HELP TO
REDUCE CURRENT POLITICAL TENSIONS, AND THEREFORE WANTS
TO DO IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. [redacted] IS RUNNING FOR LOWER HOUSE FROM GIA DINH
[redacted] HE SAID SWITCH F
ROM BINH THUAN WAS
MADE
INVITATION OF A NUMBER OF NORTHERN CATHOLIC
PRIESTS IN GIA DINH. [redacted] EXPECTS TO DO WELL IN
ELECTION ON BASIS OF CATHOLIC SUPPORT, BUT NOTED
RUEFULLY THAT "ABOUT 20" CATHOLICS ARE RUNNING IN
HIS CONSTITUENCY. HE SPECULATES THAT CONFERENCE OF
PARISH PRIESTS WILL BE HELD BEFORE ELECTION TO ARRIVE
AT LIST OF APPROVED CATHOLIC CANDIDATES. IF HELD [redacted]
IS CONFIDENT HE WILL BE AMONG THOSE CHOSEN. [redacted] SAID
A SIMILAR PROCESS TOOK PLACE BEFORE PRESIDENTIAL AND
UPPER HOUSE ELECTION WHEN BISHOPS MET, AUGUST 15 AND
16 IN XTNG TAU, TO OFFICIALLY ENDORSE THIEU-KY AND TO
CHOOSE WHICH UPPER HOUSE SLATES CATHOLICS SHOULD VOTE

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FOR. [redacted] ATTRIBUTES THIEU-KY MARGIN OF VICTORY TO
SOLID CATHOLIC SUPPORT. HE HIMSELF VOTED FOR THIEU-KY
EVEN THOUGH "UNLIKE MO T NORTHERN REFUGEES, I DON'T
LIKE KY."

5. COMMENT:

A: [redacted] ESTIMATE OF HOW ASSEMBLY WILL VOTE
ON VALIDATION SEEMS SOUND, ALTHOUGH SITUATION MAY CHANGE

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[redacted]

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BEFO
RE OCTOBER 2.

B) [redacted] IS YOUNG, INDEPENDENT AND HONEST. HIS DESCRIPTION OF WORKINGS OF CEC, AND STATEMENT THAT IT OPERATED FREE OF GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE IS PROBABLY BASICALLY CORRECT.

C) CATHOLIC BISHOPS DID NOT FORMALLY ENDORSE ANY CANDIDATES IN EITHER PRESIDENTIAL OR UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS, THOUGH PARISH PRIESTS CERTAINLY ADVISED CATHOLICS WHOM TO VOTE FOR.

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EXCISE

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ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, NSAE 00, L 03, INR 07, P 04,
CIA 04, DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, SAH 03, SAL 01, IO 21, AID 30, RSR 01,
NIC 01, /161 W

R 210500Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7279
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4312
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2576

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6531

SUBJECT: REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIET LEADERS URGES PARTY MEMBERS IN I CORPS TO ACCEPT ELECTION OUTCOME

1. ON SEPTEMBER 15 EMBOFF IN DA NANG DISCUSSED CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION WITH [redacted] SENATOR-ELECT [redacted] SUBSEQUENTLY [redacted] TRAVELED TO HUE AND HIS HOME PROVINCE OF QUANGTRI. IN QUANG TRI [redacted] REPORTEDLY INFORMED LOCAL PARTY LEADERS OF RDV VIEW OF CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN SAIGON AND RDV POSITION VIS-A-VIS

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ELECTIONS AND THIEU GOVERNMENT.

2. [redacted] CLAIMS THAT RDV PARTY DOES NOT REALLY SUPPORT THIEU-KY, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF NUMEROUS, "PROVEN" ILLEGALITIES IN MANNER IN WHICH ELECTION WAS CONDUCTED. HOWEVER, AT THIS

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TAGE RDV MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN THIEU-KY AND AN QUANG PAGODA.
RIME CONSIDERATION IS PROSECUTION OF WAR AGAINST COMMUNISTS,
HEREFORE ACCEPTING ELECTIONS, WHICH MEANS SIDING WITH THIEU,
S ONLY FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE.

. AT PRESENT TIME HA THUC KY AND TRAN
VAN HUONG ARE WORKING
OGETHER AND BOTH WILL ACTIVELY ACCEPT RESULTES OF ELECTION
JDV DEPUTIES IN CA (18 PARTY MEMBERS AND 4 ACTIVE SYMPATHIZERS)
RS DEPUTIES (1) NOT COUNTING DO 59
CATHOLICS; AND SOME
INORITY DEPUTIES WILL ACCEPT ELECTION. [ ] EXPRESSED BELIEF
HAT CA WOULD ACCEPT ELECTION RESULTS. HOWEVER, PRO-PM KY
EPUTIES CAUSING GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE DUE TO THEIR LOSS
N SENATE RACE, THEREFORE OUTCOME WAS STILL NOT CERTAIN.

- [ ] TOLD POLAD THAT BOTH TRAN VAN HUONG AND HA THUC KY

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AD BEEN APPROACHED BY THIEU TO FILL POSITIONS IN HIS
OVERNMENT. BOTH MEN HAVE ALLEGEDLY DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE
N FIRST THIEU GOVERNMENT BECAUSE "ALTHOUGH INTELLECTUALS
OULD UNDERSTAND NECESITY TO PURSUE NATIONALIST, ANTI-
OMMUNIST CAUSE, COMMON PEOPLE WOULD THINK THEY (HUONG AND KY)
AD BEEN BOUGHT OUT BY THIEU AND THEREFORE BOTH MEN WOULD
E HURT FOR ANY FUTURE POLITICAL CONTEST." HOWEVER, AFTER
NITIAL GOVERNMENT SET-UP, AND "AFTER THIEU HAS DEMONSTRATED
E IS NOT DICTATORIAL", BOTH MIGHT ACCEPT TOP POSITIONS
F ASKED. BUNKER

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